

PRESS RELEASE

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ARMORED CAR DRIVER SENTENCED TO 22 YEARS IN PRISON AND ORDERED TO PAY OVER \$784,000.00 IN RESTITUTION IN MILLION DOLLAR ARMORED CAR HEIST

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- Paul K. Charlton, United States Attorney for the District of Arizona; Charlene B. Thornton, Special Agent in Charge, FBI Phoenix Field Division; and Dennis Donna, Chief of Police, Mesa Police Department, announced that on Friday, February 7, 2003, CHRISTIAN EDUARDO GAYBOR, d.o.b. 7/12/77, of Phoenix, Arizona, was sentenced to 22 years in prison and ordered to pay \$784,614.57 in restitution for the offenses of Interference with Interstate Commerce by Use of Threats or Violence in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1951, and Brandishing a Firearm in Connection with a Crime of Violence in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(A)(ii), by United States District Judge Stephen M. McNamee, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Gaybor was previously found guilty of the offenses by a federal jury on October 31, 2002. The evidence at trial showed that at all times material to the charges, AT Systems, an armored carrier with offices located in Phoenix, Arizona, transported United States currency, checks and other financial documents for commercial enterprises which were engaged in the retail sale of numerous products purchased wholesale

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in interstate and foreign commerce, and part of the retail industry which affects interstate and foreign commerce.

On December 5, 2001, defendant Christian Eduardo Gaybor was an armored car driver employed by AT Systems and Michael Hutchinson was an armored car messenger employed by AT Systems. Among the two employees, Gaybor was the “inside man” on the robbery and Hutchinson was the ultimate victim. On that same date, Gaybor and Hutchinson carried out their duties as employees for AT Systems by traveling together in their armored car to multiple locations to collect money, checks and other financial documents from multiple retailers including:

- A. Wal Mart Store Number 1381
Apache Junction, Arizona
- B. Walgreens Drug Store Number 4188
Apache Junction, Arizona
- C. Fry’s Store Number 23
Mesa, Arizona
- D. Target Store Number 639
Mesa, Arizona
- E. K-Mart Store Number 3188
Mesa, Arizona
- F. Home Depot Store Number 473
Mesa, Arizona

At approximately 3:00 p.m. on that same date, Gaybor along with co-defendants Michael Moussa, Joe Mascareno, Anthony Mathews, and Raul Villasaez, intentionally and unlawfully stole money, checks and other financial documents from Hutchinson by means of actual and threatened force, violence and fear of immediate injury. The five defendants accomplished the robbery in the following manner. Gaybor allowed Moussa and Mascareno into the armored car and gave them his handgun while Hutchinson was

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making a pick-up at a Home Depot Store in Mesa, Arizona. Moussa and Mascareno were armed with handguns. Moussa admitted at trial that he also carried a machinegun in a black duffle bag with him during the robbery but stated he never pulled it out. Moussa and Mascareno hid while Hutchinson returned to the armored car. After Hutchinson entered the armored car, Mascareno hit him on the head from behind. Moussa and Mascareno then pointed guns at Hutchinson's head, took his gun, put a black hood over his head and then tied his hands and feet. Moussa and Mascareno then loaded over 1 million dollars in cash, along with numerous checks, into black duffle bags while Gabor pretended to follow instructions on where to drive the armored car. At trial, Hutchinson testified that he feared for his life while he was tied up, hooded and forced to lie in the back of the truck as the robbers drove through Mesa and Gilbert, Arizona. Gaybor ultimately drove the armored car to a Fry's grocery store in Gilbert, Arizona, where a get-a-way van was waiting. While behind the grocery store, Moussa and Mascareno tied up Gaybor for effect. Villasaez then helped them unload the armored car into the van. Mathews acted as the get-a-way driver.

In the course of an unrelated investigation on December 11, 2002, the U.S. Customs Service recovered over \$224,900.00 of the stolen money during the execution of a federal search warrant. During the investigation and arrests of the five robbers, an additional \$120,221.57 was recovered by the investigating law enforcement agencies.

Gaybor was in custody pending trial and sentencing. Prior to Gaybor's trial, Moussa plead guilty to both counts and the remaining three defendants plead guilty to Interference with Interstate Commerce by Use of Threats or Violence. On January 13, 2003, Mascareno was sentenced to 127 months in prison and Villasaez was sentenced to 97 months in prison; both defendants were also ordered to jointly pay the same amount of restitution. Moussa and Mathews presently in custody and pending sentencing before Judge McNamee.

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A conviction for Interference with Interstate Commerce by Use of Threats or Violence in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1951 carries a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment, a \$250,000.00 fine or both. A conviction for Brandishing a Firearm in Connection with a Crime of Violence in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) carries a minimum mandatory consecutive penalty of 7 years to life imprisonment, a \$250,000.00 fine or both.

This robbery investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Mesa Police Department, Gilbert Police Department, Phoenix Police Department and U.S. Customs Service.

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